

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

August 23, 2007

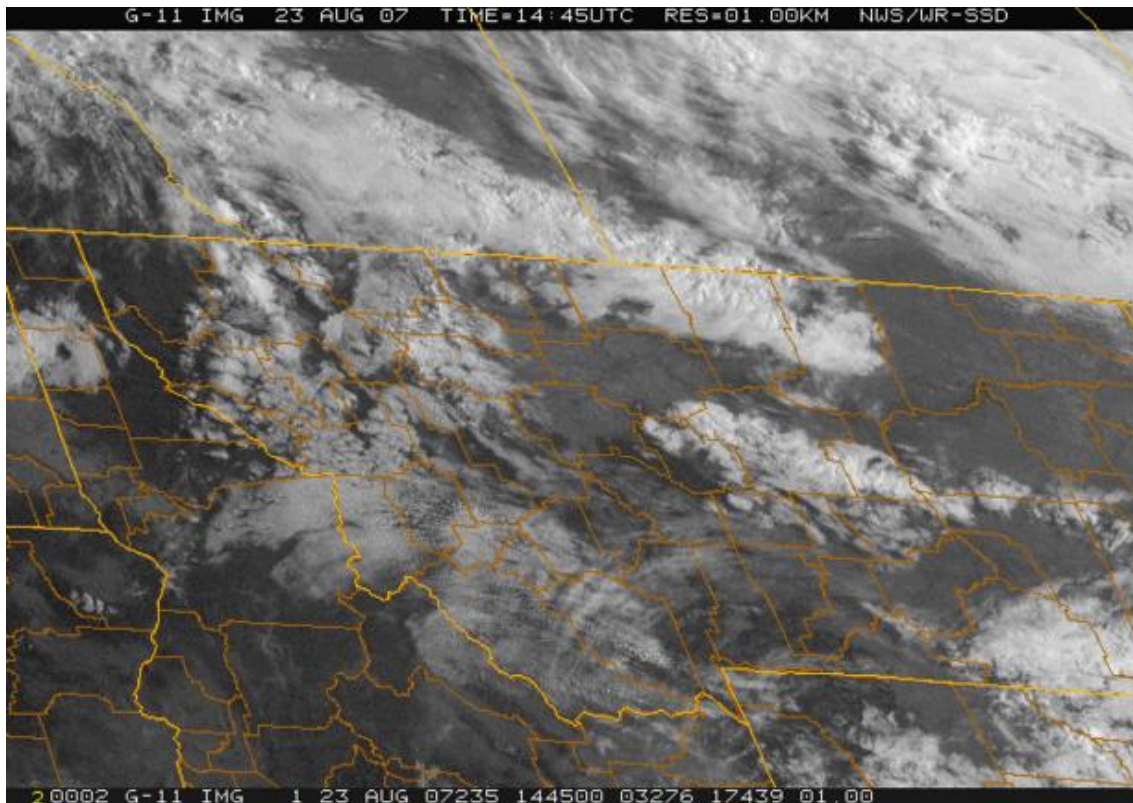
10:00 AM Thursday

FORECAST:

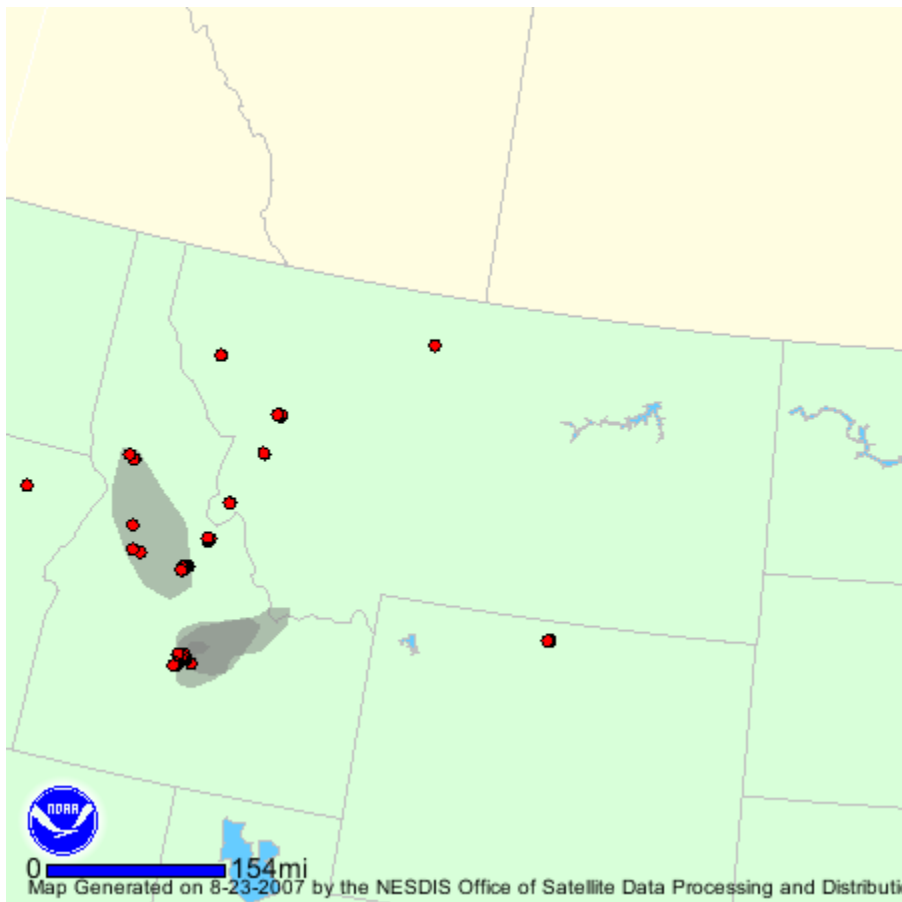
Smoke levels are starting to rise today as smoke from yesterday's fire activity works its way across the state. The northern Flathead is seeing some unhealthy for sensitive levels. Other areas are seeing some transient impacts from the passing smoke as well.

The flow aloft is from the northwest in the northern part of the state and from the west across the central and southern parts. That will bring smoke into the northern Flathead from the Brush Creek fire. More smoke from Idaho will push into central and southwest Montana today and haze levels will start to creep up in the Missoula, Hamilton, and Butte areas. Dispersion this afternoon will be pretty good with little stagnation and smoke build up should not be a major problem. Expect the general haze level to continue to rise over the next several days. Direct plume impact from local fires could be a problem this afternoon and evening. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls is illustrated below:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite.
Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:
http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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DISCUSSION:

Smoke is sloshing around in the Kalispell, Missoula, and Butte areas. Kalispell is at [unhealthy for sensitive](#), and Whitefish, Missoula, and Butte are at [moderate](#). All the rest of the reporting stations are at [good](#) this morning. The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires and experiencing impacts from residual smoke will need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to determine current conditions.

[John Coefield](#)

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

Updated 10 AM August 23, 2007

These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day

HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Kalispell T1
MODERATE	WhitefishT1 Missoula T8 Butte T8

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.